

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): A disposable brush formed of a nonwoven fabric or of a pulp molding which comprises a base and a number of projections formed on one side of said base by allowing portions of said base to project,

wherein said base is a sheet base and has a slit in the peripheral portion thereof so that said brush can be held by hand by means of said slit.

Claim 7 (original): This disposable brush as set forth in claim 6, wherein said base is rectangular and said slit is cut in the width direction of said base in the peripheral portion on each end of said base in the longitudinal direction thereof.

Claim 8 (original): The disposable brush as set forth in claim 6, wherein said slit is a cross slit and made in three positions.

Claim 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): A disposable brush formed of a nonwoven fabric or of a pulp molding which comprises a base and a number of projections formed on one side of said base by allowing portions of said base to project,

wherein a water-retaining member is provided on the reverse side of said base, and
wherein said water-retaining member comprises pulp and a water-absorbent polymer,
and the outer surface of said water-retaining member is covered with a cover sheet.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A brush, formed of at least one of a non-woven fabric
or a pulp molded product, comprising:

a base formed of a single layer; and
a plurality of projections formed on a surface of the base,
wherein the plurality of projections is formed from portions of the base that protrude
from the surface of the base, and

wherein the base has a height toward a center portion that is greater than a height
toward a peripheral portion, wherein the non-woven fabric includes at least one of a spun lace
non-woven, a spun bond non-woven, a suction non-woven, a heat bond non-woven, a melt
blown non-woven, and a needle punch non-woven.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein each of
the plurality of projections is hollow.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein at least
one of the plurality of projections is filled with a strengthening member.

Claim 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the non-
woven fabric has a basis weight of approximately 50 g/m² to approximately 500 g/m².

Claim 16 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the non-woven fabric includes at least one of a polyethylene, a polypropylene, a polyethylene terephthalate, and a polyimide.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 16, wherein the non-woven fabric has a fineness of approximately 1 denier to approximately 100 denier.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the pulp molded product includes at least one of a softwood, a hardwood, a grass, a rice plant, a reed, a paperboard, a regenerated paper, and a pulp block.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 18, wherein the pulp molded product includes fibers having a length of approximately 0.2 mm to 40 mm.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 18, wherein the pulp molded product includes an adhesive.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 20, wherein the adhesive includes at least one of a starch and a synthetic resin.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 21, wherein the synthetic resin includes a vinyl acetate resin.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 20, wherein the adhesive is used in an amount of approximately 2 % by weight, based on a solid content of a pulp slurry used to form the pulp molded product.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the pulp molded product includes a binder fiber.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 24, wherein the binder fiber includes a fiber capable of developing thermal fusion during drying and pressing of the pulp molded article.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 25, wherein the binder fiber includes a polyethylene fiber.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 11, further comprising adjustable flaps on at least two sides of the base.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the base is impregnated with a chemical.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 28, wherein the chemical includes a medicine.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the shape of each of the plurality of the protrusions includes a frustum of a cone.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the plurality of protrusions has a maximum compression load of at least 1 N.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the plurality of protrusions are formed at a density between approximately 2 and approximately 40 per 10 cm² on the surface of the base.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein a pitch of the plurality of projections is between approximately 5 mm and approximately 22 mm.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The disposable brush as set forth in Claim 11, wherein a water-retaining member is provided on the reverse side of said base.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The disposable brush as set forth in claim 34, wherein said water-retaining member comprises pulp and a water-absorbent polymer, and an outer surface of said water-retaining member is covered with a cover sheet.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): A method of forming a brush, comprising a non-woven fabric, comprising,
a base formed of a single layer, and
a plurality of projections formed on a surface of the base,
wherein the plurality of projections is formed from portions of the base that
protrude from the surface of the base, and

wherein the base has a height toward a center portion that is greater than a height toward a peripheral portion, the method comprising:

cutting fibers;
carding the cut fibers into a web;
passing the web through heat rollers, thereby forming the non-woven fabric;
pressing the non-woven fabric between a male mold and a female mold to form a plurality of projections;
cutting the pressed non-woven fabric into the shape of the base.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): A method of forming a brush comprising a pulp molded product, comprising,

a base formed of a single layer, and
a plurality of projections formed on a surface of the base,
wherein the plurality of projections is formed from portions of the base that protrude from the surface of the base, and
wherein the base has a height toward a center portion that is greater than a height toward a peripheral portion, the method comprising:
dissolving a pulp sheet into a pulp slurry;
pouring the slurry into a mold of a shape of the brush;
dehydrating the slurry in the mold;
dry pressing the pulp molding between a male and a female mold to form the brush.

~~Claim 38 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 37, further comprising~~
beating the pulp slurry after dissolving the pulp sheet in the pulp slurry.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 37, further comprising adding at least one of an adhesive and a binder fiber to the pulp slurry.

Claim 40 (new): A brush, formed of at least one of a non-woven fabric or a pulp molded product, comprising:

a base formed of a single layer; and

a plurality of projections formed on a surface of the base,

wherein the plurality of projections is formed from portions of the base that protrude from the surface of the base, and

wherein the base has a height toward a center portion that is greater than a height toward a peripheral portion,

wherein the non-woven fabric has a basis weight of approximately 50 g/m^2 to approximately 500 g/m^2 .

Claim 41 (new): A brush, formed of at least one of a non-woven fabric or a pulp molded product, comprising:

a base formed of a single layer; and

a plurality of projections formed on a surface of the base,

wherein the plurality of projections is formed from portions of the base that protrude from the surface of the base,

wherein the base has a height toward a center portion that is greater than a height toward a peripheral portion, and

wherein the non-woven fabric includes at least one of a polyethylene, a polypropylene, a polyethylene terephthalate, and a polyimide.

Claim 42 (new): The brush according to Claim 41, wherein the non-woven fabric has a fineness of approximately 1 denier to approximately 100 denier.

Claim 43 (new): A brush, formed of at least one of a non-woven fabric or a pulp molded product, comprising:

a base formed of a single layer; and

a plurality of projections formed on a surface of the base,

wherein the plurality of projections is formed from portions of the base that protrude from the surface of the base,

wherein the base has a height toward a center portion that is greater than a height toward a peripheral portion,

wherein the pulp molded product includes at least one of a softwood, a hardwood, a grass, a rice plant, a reed, a paperboard, a regenerated paper, and a pulp block,

wherein the pulp molded product includes fibers having a length of approximately 0.2 mm to 40 mm,

wherein the pulp molded product includes an adhesive, and

wherein the adhesive includes at least one of a starch and a synthetic resin.

Claim 44 (new): The brush according to Claim 43, wherein the synthetic resin includes a vinyl acetate resin.

Claim 45 (new): A brush, formed of at least one of a non-woven fabric or a pulp molded product, comprising:

a base formed of a single layer; and

a plurality of projections formed on a surface of the base,

wherein the plurality of projections is formed from portions of the base that protrude from the surface of the base,

wherein the base has a height toward a center portion that is greater than a height toward a peripheral portion,

wherein the pulp molded product includes a binder fiber,

wherein the binder fiber includes a fiber capable of developing thermal fusion during drying and pressing of the pulp molded article, and

wherein the binder fiber includes a polyethylene fiber.